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Peacebuilding Commission

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Conclusions of the second biannual review of the implementation of the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi

The Peacebuilding Commission:

1. *Welcomes* the second biannual report on the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi¹ and expresses its appreciation for the contributions of the Government of Burundi, representatives of the civil society, women's organizations, the private sector, political parties, religious groups, the Bashingantaha institution and international partners, with support from the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi, to the preparation of that report;

2. *Also welcomes* the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Framework, in particular the significant progress achieved in the peace process between the Government of Burundi and the Forces Nationales de Libération (FNL); the resumption of parliamentary activity; the efforts to improve political and economic governance; the reform of the justice system; and the professionalization of the security forces, as well as the adoption of a national land tenure policy paper and the Land Code;

3. *Further welcomes* the continued financial support provided by multilateral and bilateral partners as well as the political support provided, in particular by the Regional Initiative for the Burundi Peace Process and the South African Facilitation, in support of the peace process, and notes with satisfaction the fact that Burundi had qualified for the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative which allowed for significant debt relief;

4. *Requests* the Peacebuilding Support Office to present at future biannual review meetings a strategic assessment of the impact of the Peacebuilding Commission in support of peacebuilding in Burundi, and in this regard calls upon all members of the Commission's Burundi-specific configuration to report to the

¹ PBC/3/BDI/2.



Support Office on its response to the conclusions and recommendations of the Commission;

5. *Reaffirms* that the priority areas identified in the Strategic Framework remain relevant and calls on the Government, international partners and other stakeholders to implement their commitments, and in this regard recommends that:

A. The Government of Burundi

1. Elections and the political environment

(a) Ensure an environment conducive to the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in 2010, including through an inclusive process for the establishment of the electoral framework and a credible National Independent Electoral Commission, promoting constructive dialogue and political space, and promoting and respecting civil and political rights;

2. Good governance and the fight against corruption

(b) Take further action to fight corruption and prosecute those responsible, including the conclusion of cases such as that against the oil company Interpetrol and that concerning the sale of the Falcon 50 presidential jet, and to build capacities to administer and strengthen public and local services;

3. Implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement

(c) Ensure, together with the Forces Nationales de Libération, the timely implementation of the outstanding elements of the 4 December 2008 and 17 January 2009 Bujumbura agreements without further delay, namely, the immediate release of children associated with FNL, the release of prisoners of FNL, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of FNL combatants, the registration of FNL as a political party, the integration of FNL into national institutions and the integration of FNL combatants into the army and police;

4. Security sector reform

(d) Prepare a comprehensive national plan for security sector reform, including the establishment of an agreed framework and modalities for rightsizing and ensuring the professionalization of the army, the police and the national intelligence service, and rendering the police, defence and intelligence services accountable;

5. Human rights and the rule of law

(e) Increase efforts to broaden the respect for and protection of human rights and enforce the rule of law, including through measures to improve the performance and independence of the judiciary; to establish the National Independent Human Rights Commission consistent with international norms and the Paris Principles; to take decisive action against the perpetrators of violent acts, including against women, children and "albinos"; and to improve efforts to end impunity and conclude existing cases expeditiously, including those relating to the Gatumba massacres and the Kinama killings;

6. Transitional justice

(f) Take forward the nationwide consultation process on the establishment of the transitional justice mechanisms and provide an environment conducive to the conduct of these consultations so as to ensure the timely establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;

7. Socio-economic recovery

(g) Finalize, in consultation with international partners, and start to implement, the strategy for durable socio-economic reintegration of former FNL combatants, demobilized soldiers, ex-combatants, the displaced and other vulnerable groups affected by the conflict;

8. Land tenure

(h) Implement the land tenure policy paper and put in place mechanisms to coordinate land dispute resolution;

9. The gender dimension and reintegration of refugees and vulnerable groups

(i) Continue the efforts directed towards the achievement of the agreed minimum of 30 per cent female representation in public services, and continue to support the implementation of the Integrated Rural Villages programme which promotes durable solutions to the problems of landless returnees and vulnerable groups, in particular women;

10. International assistance

(j) Activate the Groupe de Coordination des Partenaires, with a view to maintaining regular and constructive dialogue with national stakeholders and international partners on the priorities within the Strategic Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper and advising the Peacebuilding Commission on how it can effectively support peacebuilding efforts in Burundi;

B. International partners**11. Peace process**

(k) Continue to monitor and support the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement and the follow-up to the Bujumbura agreement, including through the Regional Initiative, the South African Facilitation, the African Union, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi and other members of the Political Directorate;

12. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration

(l) Provide the necessary financial and technical support to enable the Government of Burundi and FNL to complete the implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement, as agreed to in the conclusions of the Burundi

configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission of 12 December 2008,² including support for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of FNL combatants;

13. Political dialogue

(m) Encourage and support the efforts of the Government to establish a permanent forum for political dialogue among the political parties and civil society, including women's and religious groups;

14. Mobilization of resources

(n) Continue to support the implementation of the Government's priorities as set out in the Priority Action Programme to ensure that essential public services are delivered and the economic needs of Burundi are met;

15. Aid effectiveness

(o) Take effective measures for increased coordination, harmonization and alignment in accordance with the Paris Principles and the commitments contained in the Accra Agenda for Action;³

16. International assistance

(p) Actively participate in the Groupe de Coordination des Partenaires, with a view to maintaining a regular and constructive dialogue with the Government and national stakeholders on the priorities in the Strategic Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper and advising the Peacebuilding Commission on how it can effectively support peacebuilding in Burundi;

6. *Decides* that, during the forthcoming biannual review period, the Peacebuilding Commission will specifically:

(a) Advocate for and follow-up on the implementation of the conclusions arising from the second biannual review;

(b) Continue to advocate for support for activities relating to the Strategic Framework for Peacebuilding in Burundi, including helping to widen Burundi's donor base and engaging non-traditional partners;

(c) Continue to support the implementation of the peace process through the Regional Initiative for the Burundi Peace Process, the South African Facilitation, the African Union, the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi and other members of the Political Directorate, in particular through ensuring the availability of the resources necessary for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of FNL combatants;

(d) Provide advice, support and monitoring in respect of national efforts to create an environment conducive to the conduct of free, fair and peaceful democratic elections in 2010, including, as a first step, the organizing of a thematic meeting on the elections in early 2009 in order to identify challenges that will require support from the Peacebuilding Commission and partners;

² PBC/3/BDI/1.

³ A/63/539, annex.

(e) Mobilize support for the strategy for durable socio-economic reintegration of FNL ex-combatants and other ex-combatants and demobilized persons, when such a strategy has been developed and finalized in consultation with partners in Burundi;

(f) Provide advice and guidance on strategic approaches to peacebuilding, including transitional justice and socio-economic reconstruction, drawing on best practices and lessons learned in other countries, and extending outreach to civil society organizations;

(g) Encourage international partners to streamline and better coordinate their bilateral and multilateral assistance in line with the Burundi poverty reduction strategy paper;

(h) Advocate within the Security Council and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system to ensure that the role of the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi in support of the work of the Government and the Commission is taken into account in the forthcoming mandate review;

(i) Work with the Government of Burundi to review and update the Monitoring and Tracking Mechanism, inter alia, to ensure that the Strategic Framework and the poverty reduction strategy paper processes are aligned, and to conclude the review by May 2009 at the latest.